GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6054
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
BLACKMARKETING OF AIR TICKETS
ALE NARENDRA;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the `Hindustan Times` dated April 8, 2002 captioned `Apex fair ke nam par hawai ticketon ke Kalabazari`;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the blackmarketing of Air tickets?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a): Yes, sir

(b)&(c): Over a period of time, it has been observed by Airlines that agents have a tendency to make fictitious bookings and block seats on anticipated demand. Subsequently, the agents cancel the same at the last minute in case the demand does not materialise into actual travel. This results in airlines losing heavily by way of flights going light and reservation charges being paid to the Global Distribution Systems. As a step towards controlling these bookings and to reduce costs, the matter was taken up at the board of airlines representatives meeting with all airlines and it was decided that the fare structure would be modified for travel ex-India. While modifying the fare structure, Advance Purchase Excursion Fares (Apex), which are cheaperbut have to be purchased 21 days in advance and carries cancellation charges, were introduced. This would result in better utilisation of the inventory and reduced reservation charges being paid to the Global Distribution System. Anymalpractice resorted to by any operator in the matter of air fares, can also be brought to the notice of Directorate General of Civil Aviation for suitable remedial action.